

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-11 OMB-01 /077 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:HHJANIN:SEH

APPROVED BY AF/E:WBCOOTE

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R 041445Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 052867

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PINT, PINR, MI

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT BANDA'S CONCERN OVER ALLEGED SUBVERSION

REF: BLANTYRE 0299

1) REFTEL OFFERS VALUABLE COMMENTARY ON CONDITIONS IN MALAWI AND IS MUCH APPRECIATED. DEPT. SHARES POST'S CONCERN WITH GROWING REPRESSIVE ATMOSPHERE IN MALAWI.

2) RE HYPOTHESES PUT FORWARD PARA 3 REFTEL, WE WONDER WHETHER ALL MIGHT NOT BE OPERATIVE. FOR EXAMPLE, BANDA MAY STRONGLY FEAR LATENT SUBVERSION BUT KNOWS IT DOES NOT PRESENTLY EXIST TO THE EXTENT HE CLAIMS; HOWEVER, MUWALO
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ET AL MAY BOTH ENCOURAGE HIS LATENT FEARS AND EXAGGERATE

EXTENT OF PRESENT DISSATISFACTION. IN ANY CASE, WE CONCUR THAT NO SOLID EVIDENCE NOW FAVORS THIS OR ANY OF THE THREE INDIVIDUAL HYPOTHESES.

3) RE SUGGESTION THAT DEPT. DISCUSS SITUATION WITH MINISTER GEORGE BANDA IN WASHINGTON, WE WILLING TO DO SO BUT ARE CONCERNED THAT (A) BANDA WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO BE FRANK WITH US AND (B) WHETHER HE TOES PARTY LINE OR NOT, WORD OF CONVERSATION MIGHT GET HIM IN SERIOUS TROUBLE WITH GOM IF IT LEAKED. WE THEREFORE INCLINED AGAINST RAISING SUBJECT

WITH HIM AT THIS TIME BUT WILL ATTEMPT TO SOUND HIM OUT WHEN AUSPICIOUS OPPORTUNITY ARISES. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, POLITICAL REPRESSION, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE052867
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HHJANIN:SEH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760083-0837
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760394/aaaadero.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BLANTYRE 299
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT BANDA'S CONCERN OVER ALLEGED SUBVERSION
TAGS: PINT, PINR, MI, (BANDA, H KAMUZU)
To: BLANTYRE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006